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24 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

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SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission

1. These four missions provided extensive and generally excellent coverage of Laos and North Vietnam and limited coverage of Chinese targets north of the Vietnamese border. In many cases, but particularly in Laos, coverage was repetitive.

North Vietnam:

2. Twelve of the fifteen airfields covered in North Vietnam were major fields. Nearly all the transports the DRV owns--11 IL-14's and 20 LI-2's--were seen at Hanoi/Gia Lam while four Hound helicopters were seen at Kep. North Vietnam's new airfield at Phuc Yen, 12 miles north of Hanoi, now appears serviceable although no aircraft, electronic defenses or revetments were seen. We still feel that this field is intended to serve as Hanoi's new international terminal.

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4. The missions also provided excellent photography of twenty-eight military complexes or installations, twenty-one supply or storage areas, and forty-four barracks areas. Most installations, such as Dien Bien Phu, showed little, if any, change from previous coverage

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NSA review(s) completed.

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5. Some industrial construction was noted. A fairly extensive unidentified industrial installation is under construction in the Phu Lang Thuong area northeast of Hanoi. At Thai Nguyen, a major iron and steel plant is under construction and is about 50% complete. A military supply depot in this same complex has a total of 36 large camouflaged warehouses.

6. The only active defenses noted were at least 170 and possibly as many as 218 occupied anti-aircraft positions. Of these, 121 were in the Hanoi area. One radar site, under continuing construction in the Thai Nguyen area, was confirmed by the photography.

7. As part of a continuing coverage of North Vietnam's transportation net, these missions concentrated on railroads and bridges. A total of seventeen major railroad marshalling yards were photographed, mostly on the rail lines radiating north of Hanoi to the Chinese border. Ten moving trains were photographed and a total of at least 850 railroad cars were noted at the various yards. Most of the rail lines appeared to be serviceable. There is extensive rail construction underway northeast of Hanoi near Kep on the major line between Hanoi and Ping-Hsiang, China. A total of twenty-five bridges were photographed, all of permanent construction and all apparently serviceable.

Laos:

8. Thirty-eight Laotian airfields were covered, most of which have been previously photographed. Of these, twenty-one belong to FAR forces, seven are in areas of Pathet Lao control, six belong to the Neutralists, three are abandoned and one is unidentified. The only aircraft seen were at FAR and Neutralist fields, including forty aircraft of all types at Vientiane. The airfield at Hong Sa, previously reported as under Pathet Lao control, now appears to belong to FAR forces, so that we still have not photographed any aircraft at Pathet Lao fields for some months.

9. Eight military installations, six Pathet Lao and two FAR, were covered. No appreciable change was noted at the Pathet Lao installations. Road and rail coverage was negligible.

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10. Coverage of Communist China just north of the Vietnamese border included two extensive barracks areas, one railroad yard and three bridges. No units are carried in current order-of-battle listings at the two barracks areas, but they may be garrisons for elements of the 38th Infantry Division which has its headquarters at Mengtzu.

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